

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04197 271336Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 SY-05 MCT-01 COME-00 AID-05
/072 W

-----271344Z 011945 /46

O R 271235Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1210
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 04197

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, PINT
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENTS

REF: STATE 094452

1. ON APRIL 27 THE CHARGE CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI TO MAKE A DEMARCHE ON THE INCREASING FREQUENCY OF ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENTS BEING MADE DURING PPP POLITICAL MEETINGS. DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL, THE CHARGE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR BYROADE, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, HAD A USEFUL CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE U.S. IS SUPPORTING THE OPPOSITION PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE.

2. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT WE HAVE SEEN THE VARIOUS STORIES IN THE PRESS WHICH STATED THAT ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS HAD BEEN RAISED AT PPP RALIES AND IN MARCHES. WE ARE CONCERNED SINCE THE PPP IS THE GOVERNMENT PARTY AND SUCH SLOGANS MAY BE SEEN AS REPRESENTING OFFICIAL POLICY. THE CHARGE EMPHASIZED OUR HOPE THAT ANTI-U.S. SLOGANS
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WOULD NOT BECOME A PART OF THE PAK POLITICAL SCENE SINCE WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS SUFFER. THE CHARGE THEN GAVE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY COPIES OF RELEVANT NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

3. AGHA SHAHI REPLIED THAT HE WILL CERTAINLY CHECK ON THIS SITUATION. HOWEVER, HE WANTED TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE IT CLEAR

THAT THE ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS ARE NOT COUNTENANCED BY ANYONE IN AUTHORITY, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER. TEMPERS IN THE COUNTRY ARE HIGH AND THE ATMOSPHERE IS CHARGED. IT WOULD BE UNWARRANTED TO ASSUME THE SLOGANS REFLECT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ADDED THAT THE GOP DESIRES FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND IF WE HAVE ANY DIFFERENCES WE CAN DISCUSS THEM PRIVATELY AND AMICABLY.

4. AGHA SHAHI ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVING REPORTS FOR OVER ONE AND ONE-HALF MONTHS OF FOREIGN MONEY BANK-ROLLING THE PNA AND THE GOP HAS PURPOSELY NOT RAISED THIS WITH US. THE PM DID RAISE IT WITH THE AMBASSADOR BUT CONSIDERING THEIR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, AND THE ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED IN A FRIENDLY, FRANK AND CANDID MANNER. HE ADDED THAT THE CHARGES ARE A POPULAR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION AND THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY JOURNALISTS IF THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO CLAIMS OF "SUPER-POWER" SUPPORT FOR THE PNA. AGHA SHAHI SAID HE ANSWERED THE JOURNALISTS THAT HE WOULD NOT EXPRESS ANY COMMENT. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT SUCH A REPLY MUST HAVE LEFT THE JOURNALISTS IN DOUBT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE GOP BELIEVED THE CHARGES. AGHA SHAHI QUICKLY RESPONDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO EVIDENCE EITHER WAY AND IN ANY CASE COULD NOT CLEAR THE NAME OF ONE SUPER-POWER WITHOUT RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHERS. HE SAID IT IS NOT THE PROPER TIME TO GIVE OFFICIAL VIEWS ON THIS MATTER, BUT THE GOP HAS NOT MADE ANY ALLEGATIONS AND THE MFA HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY INSTRUCTIONS.

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5. WHEN THE CHARGE NOTED THAT SINCE THE ANTI-AMERICAN SPEECHES WERE BEING REPEATED IN A CENSORED PRESS IT MAY BE SEEN AS GOVERNMENT INSPIRED, AGHA SHAHI REPLIED, SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY, THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS LESS CONTROL THAN WE MIGHT THINK OVER THE PRESS. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY REITERATED THAT "CATEGORICALLY THERE IS NO OFFICIAL SANCTION FOR THESE CHARGES."

6. THE CHARGE ALSO BROUGHT TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S ATTENTION COPIES OF SEVERAL THREATENING LETTERS WHICH THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED. HE NOTED THAT WE TENDED TO BELIEVE THE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY CRANKS BUT FELT THE MFA SHOULD KNOW OF THEM NEVERTHELESS. THE CHARGE ALSO SAID THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM THE SECURITY AND POLICE SERVICES AND APPRECIATED THEIR HELP. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY NOTED THAT HE TOO THOUGHT THE LETTERS WERE A FUNCTION OF THE TEMPERAMENT OF THE TIME AND WERE NOT PROBABLY WRITTEN BY CRANKS, BUT HE WOULD PASS THEM TO THE SECURITY SERVICES. HE ADDED THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD LET THE MINISTRY

KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE THAT CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE IN THE
WAY OF SECURITY FOR AMERICANS OR OUR INSTALLATIONS IN COUNTRY.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THE DEMARCHE MAY NOT COMPLETELY STOP
PPP FIGURES FROM MAKING ANTI-AMERICAN ALLEGATIONS, WE THOUGHT
IT IMPORTANT WE GO ON RECORD WITH THE MFA AND OUR DEMARCHE
MAY EVEN PERSUADE THE GOP OF THE NEED FOR CAUTION AND
INHIBIT AN ESCALATION.
CONSTABLE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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